IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Appl. No.

: National Phase Entry of PCT/EP2004/008057

Applicant

: Gerd HUMMEL et al

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PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Commissioner for Patents P.O. Box 1450 Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Dear Sir:

Please enter the following amendments before calculation of the filing fee and examination of the merits.

Amendments to the Specification begin on page 2 of this paper.

Amendments to the Claims begin on page 3 of this paper.

Amendment to the Abstract begins on page 46

Remarks begin on page 47 of this paper.